

### **REMARKS**

In the specification, the title is amended to more accurately reflect the nature of the invention. In addition, the paragraph immediately following the title is amended to introduce a priority claim.

Claims 1-167 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 168-201 have been introduced. New claims 168-201 generally are directed to embodiments of the invention that find support, for example, on pages 33-37 and 53-58 of the specification and original claims 116-132. Applicants submit that the amendments introduce no new matter.

### **STATEMENT REQUESTING DELETION OF INVENTORS**

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d), Applicants respectfully request that Shekharam Tammishetti, Sanyog Manohar Pendharkar, and Eugene Pashkovski be removed as inventors from this divisional application.

### **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby make of record the patents and publications listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449, and other information contained herein, for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. Copies of the foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed. Applicants respectfully request a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with each reference initialed by the Examiner with the next Office action.

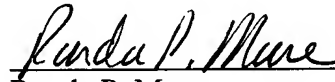
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the case is in condition for immediate allowance. Early favorable action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions about this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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<b>FORM PTO - 1449</b>				<b>ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: SSI-011DV1</b>			
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<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAM. INIT.		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	3,915,949	10/28/75	Colescott et al.			02/12/74
	A2	4,046,871	09/06/77	Reckel			04/08/75
	A3	4,101,380	07/18/78	Rubinstein et al.			06/11/76
	A4	4,264,493	04/28/81	Battista			09/14/79
	A5	4,298,598	11/03/81	Schwarz et al.			02/04/80
	A6	4,310,625	01/12/82	Modrovich			04/24/78
	A7	4,323,486	04/06/82	Suzuki et al.			11/12/80
	A8	4,349,470	09/14/82	Battista			03/23/81
	A9	4,349,530	09/14/82	Royer			12/11/80
	A10	4,362,567	12/07/82	Schwarz et al.			02/04/80
	A11	4,377,572	03/22/83	Schwarz et al.			07/07/81
	A12	4,378,224	03/29/83	Nimni et al.			09/19/80
	A13	4,414,976	11/15/83	Schwarz et al.			09/13/82
	A14	4,416,814	11/22/83	Battista			09/10/82
	A15	4,464,468	08/07/84	Avrameas et al.			04/16/82
	A16	4,502,159	03/05/85	Woodroof et al.			08/12/82
	A17	4,548,736	10/22/85	Muller et al.			08/29/83
	A18	4,603,124	07/29/86	Takei et al.			02/27/84
	A19	4,613,502	09/23/86	Turkova et al.			12/06/84
	A20	4,650,847	03/17/87	Omura et al.			04/04/85
	A21	4,687,808	08/18/87	Jarrett et al.			07/20/83
	A22	4,689,293	08/25/87	Goosen et al.			12/04/84
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EXAM. INIT.		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A23	4,719,149	01/12/88	Aasen et al.			02/28/86
	A24	4,740,534	04/26/88	Matsuda et al.			08/21/86
	A25	4,749,570	06/07/88	Poznansky			12/31/85
	A26	4,750,482	06/14/88	Sieverding			10/01/85
	A27	4,768,523	09/06/88	Cahalan et al.			12/15/86
	A28	4,772,484	09/20/88	Kitchell et al.			06/17/87
	A29	4,801,631	01/31/89	Sachs et al.			02/06/87
	A30	4,804,691	02/14/89	English et al.			08/28/87
	A31	4,806,355	02/21/89	Goosen et al.			06/08/87
	A32	4,806,381	02/21/89	Engelbrecht et al.			10/08/86
	A33	4,826,821	05/02/89	Clements			11/05/86
	A34	4,839,345	06/13/89	Doi et al.			03/04/86
	A35	4,909,251	03/20/90	Seelich			05/31/89
	A36	4,925,677	05/15/90	Feijen			08/31/88
	A37	4,933,185	06/12/90	Wheatley et al.			07/11/88
	A38	4,973,466	11/27/90	Reich			06/21/88
	A39	4,994,444	02/19/91	Zikria			07/31/87
	A40	4,994,542	02/19/91	Matsuda et al.			03/07/89
	A41	5,015,677	05/14/91	Benedict et al.			06/27/88
	A42	5,019,393	05/28/91	Ito et al.			08/03/88
	A43	5,041,292	08/20/91	Feijen			02/01/90
	A44	5,053,388	10/01/91	Gibson et al.			06/25/90
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EXAM. INIT.		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A45	5,081,157	01/14/92	Pomerantz			02/06/91
	A46	5,092,841	03/03/92	Spears			05/17/90
	A47	5,093,028	03/03/92	Kyogoku <i>et al.</i>			10/16/89
	A48	5,100,688	03/31/92	Cox <i>et al.</i>			02/23/90
	A49	5,108,923	04/28/92	Benedict <i>et al.</i>			04/03/87
	A50	5,110,806	05/05/92	Clements			04/07/89
	A51	5,122,159	06/16/92	Olson <i>et al.</i>			04/01/91
	A52	5,139,527	08/18/92	Redl <i>et al.</i>			08/06/90
	A53	5,162,430	11/10/92	Rhee <i>et al.</i>			11/14/89
	A54	5,166,187	11/24/92	Collombel <i>et al.</i>			02/15/89
	A55	5,169,754	12/08/92	Siiman <i>et al.</i>			10/31/90
	A56	5,197,973	03/30/93	Pang <i>et al.</i>			12/14/90
	A57	5,207,670	05/04/93	Sinofsky			12/09/91
	A58	5,209,776	05/11/93	Bass <i>et al.</i>			07/27/90
	A59	5,214,093	05/25/93	Nell <i>et al.</i>			04/22/91
	A60	5,219,895	06/15/93	Kelman <i>et al.</i>			01/29/91
	A61	5,224,544	07/06/93	Tjon-Joe-Pin <i>et al.</i>			02/26/92
	A62	5,256,447	10/26/93	Oxman <i>et al.</i>			12/31/91
	A63	5,258,041	11/02/93	Guire <i>et al.</i>			03/19/91
	A64	5,264,513	11/23/93	Ikemura <i>et al.</i>			04/06/92
	A65	5,266,608	11/30/93	Katz <i>et al.</i>			06/27/91
	A66	5,292,333	03/08/94	Johnson			09/05/91
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EXAM. INIT.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	A67	5,292,362	03/08/94	Bass et al.		07/09/91	
	A68	5,318,780	06/07/94	Viegas et al.		10/30/91	
	A69	5,324,649	06/28/94	Arnold et al.		10/07/92	
	A70	5,324,775	06/28/94	Rhee et al.		07/02/92	
	A71	5,350,798	09/27/94	Linden et al.		08/17/93	
	A72	5,354,336	10/11/94	Kelman et al.		03/15/93	
	A73	5,356,757	10/18/94	Shionoya et al.		11/06/92	
	A74	5,374,431	12/20/94	Pang et al.		12/10/92	
	A75	5,385,606	01/31/95	Kowanko		03/22/93	
	A76	5,387,746	02/07/95	Whitsett		11/12/92	
	A77	5,410,016	04/25/95	Hubbell et al.		03/01/93	
	A78	5,424,205	06/13/95	Dovey et al.		05/07/93	
	A79	5,431,639	07/11/95	Shaw		08/12/93	
	A80	5,437,683	08/01/95	Neumann et al.		04/28/93	
	A81	5,441,491	08/15/95	Verschoor et al.		02/04/94	
	A82	5,444,154	08/22/95	O'Lenick, Jr.		06/15/94	
	A83	5,446,078	08/29/95	Vaidya et al.		03/08/94	
	A84	5,451,406	09/19/95	Lawin et al.		07/14/94	
	A85	5,459,177	10/17/95	Miyakoshi et al.		03/08/94	
	A86	5,461,030	10/24/95	Lindenbaum		11/29/93	
	A87	5,462,749	10/31/95	Rencher		04/26/94	
	A88	5,462,976	10/31/95	Matsuda et al.		02/05/93	
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EXAM. INIT.		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A89	5,472,954	12/05/95	Loftsson			05/11/94
	A90	5,489,261	02/06/96	Franzblau et al.			09/12/94
	A91	5,491,129	02/13/96	Shaltiel			07/29/93
	A92	5,492,723	02/20/96	Sanderson et al.			05/22/91
	A93	5,496,872	03/05/96	Constancis et al.			07/19/94
	A94	5,498,421	03/12/96	Grinstaff et al.			02/22/94
	A95	5,505,713	04/09/96	Van Antwerp			04/01/94
	A96	5,514,379	05/07/96	Weissleder et al.			08/07/92
	A97	5,522,896	06/04/96	Prescott			04/01/94
	A98	5,525,648	06/11/96	Aasen et al.			01/03/95
	A99	5,527,856	06/18/96	Rhee et al.			05/12/95
	A100	5,529,914	06/25/96	Hubbell et al.			10/07/92
	A101	5,538,511	07/23/96	Van Antwerp			04/25/95
	A102	5,540,677	07/30/96	Sinofsky			10/24/94
	A103	5,545,721	08/13/96	Carroll et al.			12/17/93
	A104	5,549,664	08/27/96	Hirata et al.			05/02/94
	A105	5,549,904	08/27/96	Juergensen et al.			06/03/93
	A106	5,552,452	09/03/96	Khadem et al.			03/15/93
	A107	5,566,759	10/22/96	Tjon-Joe-Pin et al.			01/09/95
	A108	5,567,435	10/22/96	Hubbell et al.			06/06/95
	A109	5,569,239	10/29/96	Sinofsky			08/18/94
	A110	5,573,934	11/12/96	Hubbell et al.			03/01/93
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	A111	5,575,815	11/19/96	Slepian et al.		10/06/93	
	A112	5,578,661	11/26/96	Fox et al.		03/31/94	
	A113	5,583,114	12/10/96	Barrows et al.		07/27/94	
	A114	5,584,875	12/17/96	Duhamel et al.		04/13/94	
	A115	5,599,852	02/04/97	Scopelianos et al.		10/18/94	
	A116	5,607,474	03/04/97	Athanasίου et al.		09/20/93	
	A117	5,607,694	03/04/97	Marx		06/02/95	
	A118	5,612,050	03/18/97	Rowe et al.		06/07/95	
	A119	5,618,551	04/08/97	Tardy et al.		01/20/95	
	A120	5,618,790	04/08/97	Kennedy et al.		03/16/94	
	A121	5,626,863	03/06/97	Hubbell et al.		01/27/95	
	A122	5,630,842	05/20/97	Brodniewicz		01/26/94	
	A123	5,631,011	05/20/97	Wadstrom		02/07/94	
	A124	5,631,019	05/20/97	Marx		06/02/95	
	A125	5,632,727	05/27/97	Tipton et al.		06/07/95	
	A126	5,634,936	06/03/97	Linden et al.		02/06/95	
	A127	5,641,483	06/24/97	Beaulieu		06/07/95	
	A128	5,644,029	07/01/97	Carpino		06/06/95	
	A129	5,651,982	07/29/97	Marx		06/06/95	
	A130	5,656,596	08/12/97	Monard et al.		05/12/95	
	A131	5,658,592	08/19/97	Tanihara et al.		01/16/96	
	A132	5,660,849	08/26/97	Polson et al.		08/23/94	
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	A133	5,669,934	09/23/97	Sawyer			06/05/95
	A134	5,672,301	09/30/97	Orly et al.			08/04/93
	A135	5,674,287	10/07/97	Slepian et al.			01/14/94
	A136	5,686,410	11/11/97	Albert et al.			07/18/94
	A137	5,690,675	11/25/97	Sawyer et al.			06/07/95
	A138	5,690,780	11/25/97	Zharov et al.			03/07/96
	A139	5,691,065	11/25/97	Zharov et al.			03/07/96
	A140	5,701,917	12/30/97	Khoury			03/22/95
	A141	5,702,715	12/30/97	Nikolaychik et al.			10/27/95
	A142	5,709,854	01/20/98	Griffith-Cima et al.			04/30/93
	A143	5,713,959	02/03/98	Bartlett et al.			12/20/94
	A144	5,714,159	02/03/98	Shalaby			10/31/96
	A145	5,721,302	02/24/98	Wood et al.			09/17/96
	A146	5,725,522	03/10/98	Sinofsky			06/07/95
	A147	5,731,298	03/24/98	Reinmuller			12/24/92
	A148	5,733,868	03/31/98	Peterson et al.			04/16/96
	A149	5,735,900	04/07/98	Barrett et al.			03/21/96
	A150	5,736,132	04/07/98	Juergensen et al.			01/29/96
	A151	5,739,113	04/14/98	Lee			08/20/96
	A152	5,744,545	04/28/98	Rhee et al.			05/08/97
	A153	5,749,733	05/12/98	Qian et al.			04/25/97
	A154	5,749,895	05/12/98	Sawyer et al.			09/06/94
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	A155	5,749,922	05/12/98	Slepian et al.			06/07/95
	A156	5,749,968	05/12/98	Melanson et al.			06/07/95
	A157	5,750,657	05/12/98	Edwardson et al.			10/18/93
	A158	5,752,974	05/19/98	Rhee et al.			12/18/95
	A159	5,759,169	06/02/98	Marx			03/13/96
	A160	5,760,118	06/02/98	Sinclair et al.			06/05/95
	A161	5,763,410	06/09/98	Edwardson et al.			06/02/95
	A162	5,770,194	06/23/98	Edwardson et al.			05/25/95
	A163	5,770,229	06/23/98	Tanihara et al.			03/24/97
	A164	5,773,418	06/30/98	Edwardson et al.			11/20/97
	A165	5,783,214	07/21/98	Royer			06/13/94
	A166	5,786,421	07/28/98	Rhee et al.			05/06/97
	A167	5,788,979	08/04/98	Alt et al.			02/10/97
	A168	5,789,219	08/04/98	Bieniarz et al.			05/29/96
	A169	5,800,373	09/01/98	Melanson et al.			03/23/95
	A170	5,800,538	09/01/98	Slepian et al.			06/07/95
	A171	5,801,033	09/01/98	Hubbell et al.			06/07/95
	A172	5,804,213	09/08/98	Rolf			07/15/92
	A173	5,804,428	09/08/98	Edwardson et al.			03/31/98
	A174	5,810,810	09/22/98	Tay et al.			06/06/95
	A175	5,817,303	10/06/98	Stedronsky et al.			05/05/95
	A176	5,821,343	10/13/98	Keogh			04/25/96
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	A177	5,824,015	Sawyer			06/05/95	
	A178	5,827,937	.ANG.gerup			07/17/95	
	A179	5,830,700	Irani			11/01/95	
	A180	5,833,641	Curtis et al.			09/19/96	
	A181	5,834,232	Bishop et al.			05/01/96	
	A182	5,834,274	Hubbell et al.			06/06/95	
	A183	5,840,713	Weisz			09/19/95	
	A184	5,843,124	Hammerslag			08/21/96	
	A185	5,843,156	Slepian et al.			05/06/94	
	A186	5,843,743	Hubbell et al.			06/06/95	
	A187	5,847,089	Damodaran et al.			06/07/95	
	A188	5,851,229	Lentz et al.			09/13/96	
	A189	5,852,024	Pines et al.			02/11/97	
	A190	5,853,744	Mooradian et al.			08/20/96	
	A191	5,855,913	Hanes et al.			01/16/97	
	A192	5,856,928	Yan			11/16/95	
	A193	5,858,746	Hubbell et al.			01/25/95	
	A194	5,868,778	Gershony et al.			05/05/97	
	A195	5,872,197	Deviny			06/23/97	
	A196	5,874,500	Rhee et al.			12/18/96	
	A197	5,874,537	Kelman et al.			03/05/96	
	A198	5,876,743	Ibsen et al.			09/22/97	
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

<b>FORM PTO - 1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>				ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: SSI-011DV1  APPLICANT(S): Wilkie <i>et al.</i>  SERIAL NO.: Not yet assigned  FILING DATE: Herewith  GROUP: Not yet assigned			
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAM. INIT.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	A199	5,879,713	Roth et al.			01/23/97	
	A200	5,883,208	Deviny			11/08/96	
	A201	5,894,022	Ji et al.			10/07/97	
	A202	5,895,412	Tucker			05/02/97	
	A203	5,900,245	Sawhney et al.			09/23/96	
	A204	5,906,997	Schwartz et al.			06/17/97	
	A205	5,907,031	Soeda et al.			08/01/97	
	A206	5,908,618	Lorant			12/29/97	
	A207	5,912,225	Mao et al.			04/14/97	
	A208	5,914,367	Dordick et al.			10/09/97	
	A209	5,916,790	Enevold			03/03/95	
	A210	5,925,078	Anderson			11/04/96	
	A211	5,932,539	Stupp et al.			10/15/97	
	A212	5,936,035	Rhee et al.			12/18/95	
	A213	5,948,427	Yamamoto et al.			04/25/96	
	A214	5,948,527	Gerard et al.			01/20/98	
	A215	5,955,096	Santos et al.			06/25/96	
	A216	5,955,578	Pierschbacher et al.			06/05/95	
	A217	5,958,443	Viegas et al.			12/23/96	
	A218	5,981,621	Clark et al.			02/29/96	
	A219	5,985,312	Jacob et al.			01/26/96	
	A220	5,986,043	Hubbell et al.			08/20/96	
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

<b>FORM PTO - 1449</b>				<b>ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.:</b> SSI-011DV1					
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>				<b>APPLICANT(S):</b> Wilkie <i>et al.</i>					
				<b>SERIAL NO.:</b> Not yet assigned					
				<b>FILING DATE:</b> Herewith					
				<b>GROUP:</b> Not yet assigned					
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
EXAM. INIT.		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
	A221	5,989,535	11/23/99	Nayak			08/15/97		
	A222	5,994,311	11/30/99	Eichner et al.			08/08/95		
	A223	6,004,547	12/21/99	Rowe et al.			09/29/97		
	A224	6,015,474	01/18/00	Stedronsky			06/20/97		
	A225	6,017,301	01/25/00	Schwartz et al.			02/13/98		
	A226	6,025,026	02/15/00	Smith et al.			06/05/98		
	A227	6,030,017	02/29/00	Waki et al.			11/14/96		
	A228	6,030,634	02/29/00	Wu et al.			12/15/97		
	A229	6,033,654	03/07/00	Stedronsky et al.			05/02/96		
	A230	6,034,140	03/07/00	Schwartz et al.			02/13/98		
	A231	4,526,714	07/02/85	Feijen et al.			12/13/82		
	A232	5,376,692	12/27/94	Park et al.			05/15/92		
	A233	5,632,776	05/27/97	Kurumatani et al.			08/15/94		
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>									
EXAM. INIT.		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY CODE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE	ABSTRACT ONLY	ENGLISH LANG (Y/N)
	B1	WO 96/40174	12/19/96	PCT			06/07/96		Yes
	B2	WO 99/53754	10/28/99	PCT			04/12/99		Yes
	B3	0 244 688 A2	11/11/87	EP			04/18/87	No	Yes
	B4	0 466 966 A1	01/22/92	EP			07/20/90	No	Yes
	B5	0 503 741 A1	09/16/92	EP			03/11/92	No	Yes
	B6	WO 92/13025	08/06/92	PCT			01/27/92	No	Yes
<b>EXAMINER</b>					<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>				

FORM PTO - 1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT					ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: SSI-011DV1 APPLICANT(S): Wilkie <i>et al.</i> SERIAL NO.: Not yet assigned FILING DATE: Herewith GROUP: Not yet assigned				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
EXAM. INIT.		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY CODE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE	ABSTRACT ONLY	ENGLISH LANG (Y/N)
	B7	WO 94/21306	09/29/94	PCT			03/15/94	No	Yes
	B8	WO 96/03159	02/08/96	PCT			06/23/95	No	Yes
	B9	WO 97/42986	11/20/97	PCT			05/14/97	No	Yes
	B10	WO 99/04761	02/04/99	PCT			07/22/98	No	Yes
OTHER ART, JOURNAL ARTICLES, ETC.									
EXAM. INIT.	OTHER DOCUMENTS: (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)								
	C1	Benslimane et al., "Degradability of crosslinked albumin as an arterial polyester prosthesis coating in <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> rat studies," <u>Biomaterials</u> , Vol. 7, pp. 268-272 (1986).							
	C2	Copy of International Search Report for International Patent Application No. PCT/US00/35189, mailed from the International Search Authority on May 29, 2001.							
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